

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

§ 3150.0-1

prior to the end of that lease year and a payment sufficient to cover any advance royalty due and owing as a result of the failure to produce. Upon receipt of the request for suspension of production and the accompanying payment, the authorized officer shall approve a suspension of production for that lease year and the lease shall not expire during that year for lack of production.

(c) If there is production on the lease or unit during the lease year, but such production fails to meet the minimum production schedule required by the plan of operations for that lease or unit, the lessee shall pay an advance royalty within 60 days of the end of the lease year in an amount sufficient to cover the difference between such actual production and the production schedule required by the plan of operations for that lease or unit and the authorized officer shall direct a suspension of production for those periods during which no production occurred.

§ 3142.3 Expiration.

Failure of the lessee to pay advance royalty within the time prescribed by the authorized officer, or failure of the lessee to comply with any other provisions of this subpart following the end of the primary term of the lease, shall result in the automatic expiration of the lease as of the first of the month following notice to the lessee of its failure to comply. The lessee shall remain subject to the requirement of applicable laws, regulations and lease terms which have not been met at the expiration of the lease.

PART 3150—ONSHORE OIL AND GAS GEOPHYSICAL EXPLORATION

Subpart 3150—Onshore Oil and Gas Geophysical Exploration; General

Sec.

3150.0-1 Purpose.

3150.0-3 Authority.

3150.0-5 Definitions.

3150.1 Suspension, revocation or cancellation.

3150.2 Appeals.

Subpart 3151—Exploration Outside of Alaska

3151.1 Notice of intent to conduct oil and gas geophysical exploration operations.

3151.2 Notice of completion of operations.

Subpart 3152—Exploration in Alaska

3152.1 Application for oil and gas geophysical exploration permit.

3152.2 Action on application.

3152.3 Renewal of exploration permit.

3152.4 Relinquishment of exploration permit.

3152.5 Modification of exploration permit.

3152.6 Collection and submission of data.

3152.7 Completion of operations.

Subpart 3153—Exploration of Lands Under the Jurisdiction of the Department of Defense

3153.1 Geophysical permit requirements.

Subpart 3154—Bond Requirements

3154.1 Types of bonds.

3154.2 Additional bonding.

3154.3 Bond cancellation or termination of liability.

AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 3150(b) and 668dd; 30 U.S.C. 189 and 359; 42 U.S.C. 6508; 43 U.S.C. 1201, 1732(b), 1733, 1734, 1740.

SOURCE: 53 FR 17359, May 16, 1988, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart 3150—Onshore Oil and Gas Geophysical Exploration; General

§ 3150.0-1 Purpose.

The purpose of this part is to establish procedures for conducting oil and gas geophysical exploration operations when authorization for such operations is required from the Bureau of Land Management. Geophysical exploration on public lands, the surface of which is administered by the Bureau, requires Bureau approval. The procedures in this part also apply to geophysical exploration conducted under the rights granted by any Federal oil and gas lease unless the surface is administered by the U.S. Forest Service. However, a lessee may elect to conduct exploration operations outside of the rights granted by the lease, in which case authorization from the surface managing

§ 3150.0-3

agency or surface owner may be required. At the request of any other surface managing agency, the procedures in this part may be applied on a case-by-case basis to unleased public lands administered by such agency. The procedures of this part do not apply to:

(a) Casual use activities;

(b) Operations conducted on private surface overlying public lands unless such operations are conducted by a lessee under the rights granted by the Federal oil and gas lease; and

(c) Exploration operations conducted in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in accordance with section 1002 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (See 50 CFR part 37).

§ 3150.0-3 Authority.

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended and supplemented, (30 U.S.C. 181 *et seq.*), the Mineral Leasing Act for Acquired Lands of 1947, as amended (30 U.S.C. 351-359), the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101 *et seq.*), the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the Independent Offices Appropriations Act of 1952 (31 U.S.C. 483a), the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6504) and the Department of the Interior Appropriations Act, Fiscal Year 1981 (42 U.S.C. 6508).

§ 3150.0-5 Definitions.

As used in this part, the term:

(a) *Oil and gas geophysical exploration* means activity relating to the search for evidence of oil and gas which requires the physical presence upon the lands and which may result in damage to the lands or the resources located thereon. It includes, but is not limited to, geophysical operations, construction of roads and trails and cross-country transit of vehicles over such lands. It does not include core drilling for subsurface geologic information or drilling for oil and gas; these activities shall be authorized only by the issuance of an oil and gas lease and the approval of an Application for a Permit to Drill. The regulations in this part, however, are not intended to prevent drilling operations necessary for placing explosive charges, where permissible, for seismic exploration.

43 CFR Ch. II (10-1-06 Edition)

(b) *Casual use* means activities that involve practices which do not ordinarily lead to any appreciable disturbance or damage to lands, resources and improvements. For example, activities which do not involve use of heavy equipment or explosives and which do not involve vehicular movement except over established roads and trails are casual use.

[53 FR 17359, May 16, 1988; 53 FR 31959, Aug. 22, 1988]

§ 3150.1 Suspension, revocation or cancellation.

The right to conduct exploration under notices of intent and oil and gas geophysical exploration permits may be revoked or suspended, after notice, by the authorized officer and upon a final administrative finding of a violation of any term or condition of the instrument, including, but not limited to, terms and conditions requiring compliance with regulations issued under Acts applicable to the public lands and applicable State air and water quality standards or implementation plans. The Secretary may order an immediate temporary suspension of activities authorized under a permit or other use authorization prior to a hearing or final administrative finding if he/she determines that such a suspension is necessary to protect health or safety or the environment. Further, where other applicable law contains specific provisions for suspension, revocation, or cancellation of a permit or other authorization to use, occupy, or develop the public lands, the specific provisions of such law shall prevail.

§ 3150.2 Appeals.

(a) A party adversely affected by a decision or approval of the authorized officer may appeal that decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals as set forth in part 4 of this title.

(b) All decisions and approvals of the authorized officer under this part shall remain effective pending appeal unless the Interior Board of Land Appeals determines otherwise upon consideration of the standards stated in this paragraph. The provisions of 43 CFR 4.21(a) shall not apply to any decision or approval of the authorized officer under